

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SCI-06 FEA-02 DRC-01 /070 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1673

UNCLAS BANJUL 52

DEPT FOR AF/EX

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: AFIN, GA

SUBJECT: WAGE/PRICE INCREASES

1. DAILY WAGE EARNERS RECEIVED AN INCREASE OF 30 BUTUTS (20 CENTS)

PER DAY AND SALARIED WORKERS AN ANNUAL INCREASE OF 84 DALASIS ON

DECEMBER 1, 1973. THESE INCREASES WERE 'CATCH-UP' INCREASES WHICH

ALREADY BEEN LARGELY OVERTAKEN BY SUBSEQUENT PRICE RISES.

2. GRANULATED WHITE SUGAR IS CURRENTLY NOT OBTAINABLE AT ANY PRICE

IN LOCAL RETAIL STORES. LUMP SUGAR AND SPECIAL, HIGHER PRICED

TYPES (COFFEE SUGAR, ETC) ARE AVAILABLE IN LIMITED QUANTITIES.

3. FLOUR IS UNAVAILABLE IN LOCAL RETAIL SHOPS. EVEN THOUGH PRIORITY

ON FLOUR STOCKS IS GIVEN TO THE FEW COMMERCIAL BAKERIES, BREAD IS

OFTEN UNAVAILABLE FOR 24-36 HOURS. GASOLINE CURRENT PRICES (EFFECTIVE

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1-25-74) REPRESENT AN INCREASE OF 39 BUTUTS PER GALLON. THEY ARE

STILL WELL BELOW PRICES SOUGHT BY OIL COMPANIES AND ARE UNLIKELY
 TO HOLD AT PRESENT LEVELS FOR MORE THAN 90 DAYS. EVEN SO, NEW POSTED
 PRICES WILL RESULT IN HIGHER TAXI (JITNEY) FARES (COMMONEST MEANS OF
 TRANSPORT FOR WORKERS. NO BUS LINES EXIST)

4. PRICE OF RANDOMLY SELECTED GOODS: (ALL PRICES IN DALASIS)

ITEM	PRICE(1973)	PRICE(1974)	UNIT
EGGS	1.50	2.50	DOZ.
SUGAR	1.70	2.88	10 LBS.
RICE	24.00	43.00	100 LBS.
ORANGES	.25	1.00	DOZ. SMALL
BABY FOOD	.25	.37	JAR, 4OZ/HEINZ
MILK, CONDENSED	18.00	21.00	48/4 OZ CANS PALM BRAND
			BRAND
TOMATO PURCE	1.00	2.50	4 OZ CAN
SOAP, LUX	.10	.18	PERSONAL SIZE BAR
SOFT DRINKS	5.00	6.00	CAES OF 24/10 OZ BOTTLE
			BOTTLES
GASOLINE	1.22	1.66	83 OCTANE-IMPERIAL GALLON

1.35 1.74 93 OCTANE-IMPERIAL GAL
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IMPORTED FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM

IMPORTED FROM BURMA

5. NO CLOTHING NORMALLY WORN BY AMERICANS IS SOLD HERE.

6. THE PRICE OF LOCALLY PRODUCED MEATS, FISH AND VEGETABLES HAS

SKYROCKETED. BECAUSE THESE ARE SOLD IN A CENTRAL MARKET IT IS VERY
DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN QUANTITATIVE FIGURES. MEAT IS PURCHASED BY THE
'CHUNK'. THESE ITEMS ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY DUE TO THE LARGE PURCHASES
PURCHASES BY THE TOURIST HOTELS.

NOTE ON MEAT. IN THIS 95 PERCENT MUSLIM COUNTRY, MANY TYPES OF MEAT
COMMONLY USED BY AMERICANS ARE UNOBTAINABLE (BACON, HAM, PORK
PRODUCTS). WITH FEW SHIPS HAVING REFRIGERATOR SPACE STOPPING AT
BANJUL, INDIVIDUAL IMPORTS FROM EUROPE ARE UNCERTAIN. AN ORDER PLACED
IN JULY 1973 HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED HERE YET.

7. THE PRICE OF ALL SERVICES HAS RISEN SHARPLY I.E. HAIRCUT,
LAUNDRY, ETC. MCFARLAND

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